

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/994,049	FRIGG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Eduardo C. Robert	3732	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 6/4/04 and interview on 7/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-7,9-20,22,24,26-29,31 and 32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                    |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>07/09/2004</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                                      |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

  
 Eduardo C. Robert  
 Primary Examiner  
 Art Unit: 3732

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas P. Scully on July 9, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims as filed on June 4, 2004:**

In claim 1, line 6, -- at least one -- has been inserted after "portion, the". In line 9, "secured" has been changed to -- securable -- and "hole" has been changed to -- at least one of the holes --. In line 10, -- said -- has been inserted after "wherein". In line 11, "extending" has been changed to -- tapering radially inward in a direction --. In line 12, "substantially" has been deleted. In line 12, -- , said sloping direction of said at least one second tapered portion intersects at a non-zero angle with said direction of the tapering internal threads -- has been inserted after "lower surface".

In claim 7, line 1, "the hole" has been changed to -- said at least one of the holes --.

In claim 11, line 1, "the hole" has been changed to -- said at least one of the holes --.

In claim 13, line 2, "the hole" has been changed to -- said at least one of the holes --.

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In claim 16, line 5, "extending substantially" has been changed to -- tapering radially inward in a direction --. In line 11, -- said sloping direction intersects at a non-zero angle with said direction of the tapering threads of said one of the holes -- has been inserted after "the hole".

In claim 17, line 2, "the hole" has been changed to -- said one of the holes --.

In claim 18, line 1, "the threaded hole" has been changed to -- said one of the holes --.

In claim 20, line 5, "extending through" has been changed to -- tapering radially inward in a direction from --. In line 7, -- at least one -- has been inserted after "portion, the". In line 10, "secured in the hole" has been changed to -- securable in the at least one of the holes, said sloping direction of said at least one second tapered portion intersects at a non-zero angle with said direction of said at least one of the holes --.

In claim 24, line 4, "extending" has been changed to -- tapering radially inward --. In line 5, "substantially" has been changed to -- in a direction --. In line 9, -- said sloping direction of said at least one second tapered portion intersects at a non-zero angle with said direction of said tapering threaded hole -- has been inserted after "the hole".

Claim 25 has been canceled.

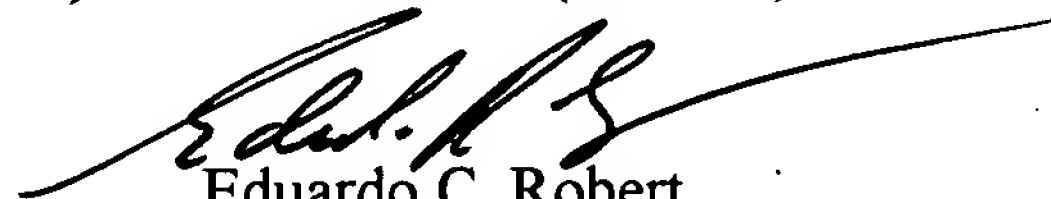
In claim 27, line 5, "extending" has been changed to -- tapering radially inward -- and -- in a direction -- has been inserted after "the protrusion". In line 10, -- , said sloping direction of said at least one second tapered portion intersects at a non-zero angle with said direction of said tapering threaded hole -- has been inserted after "the hole".

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eduardo C. Robert whose telephone number is 703-305-7333. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on 703-308-2582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Eduardo C. Robert  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3732

E.C.R.